

METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR JOINING STRUCTURES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatuses for joining structures together are disclosed. In one embodiment, a coupling device is inserted through a first aperture of a first structure and through a second aperture of a second structure. The coupling device can be positioned with a first section of the coupling device extending through the first aperture and a second section of the coupling device extending through the second aperture, but not into the first aperture. A force can be applied to the coupling device to radially expand a portion of the second section of the coupling device toward an interior surface of the second aperture, while the first section of the coupling device in the first aperture remains at least approximately unexpanded in a radial direction or expands by a lesser amount in the radial direction.